

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1-23. (Canceled)
- 1 24. (Previously presented) A rifle, comprising:
2 a rifle support;
3 a projectile propulsion mechanism comprising a barrel;
4 screws that fix the barrel to the rifle support; and
5 a protective cover that covers an area on the rifle support including heads of the
6 screws to protect a user therefrom, the protective cover comprising;
7 a main body having a predetermined length and width corresponding to a
8 length and width of the area to be covered on the rifle support; and
9 a fixing device that fixes the main body to the area to be covered, wherein
10 the fixing device comprises one or more deformable protrusions on the main body that push-fit
11 mate with one or more corresponding recesses on the rifle support.
- 1 25. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the
2 main body is configured in size and shape such that at least part of a perimeter portion thereof
3 mates with and is received in a recess formed on an exterior surface of the rifle support.
- 1 26. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, further
2 comprising a positioning device that positions the main body on the rifle support.
- 1 27. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the
2 main body is transversally convex towards an exterior thereof and longitudinally elongated.

1 28. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein at
2 least part of an exterior surface of the main body is smooth and can bear graphic printed
3 information on the exterior surface.

1 29. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the
2 cover comprises a single piece formed by injection molding a plastic material.

1 30. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 24, wherein the
2 fixing device comprises at least two deformable protrusions that push-fit mate with at least two
3 recesses that receive and fit around the deformable protrusions.

1 31. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 30, wherein the
2 deformable protrusions have a mushroom shape.

1 32. (Canceled)

1 33. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 26, wherein the
2 positioning device comprises:

3 a plurality of positioning projections formed on an interior surface of the main
4 body of the protective cover; and

5 a plurality of positioning recesses formed on the area to be covered on the rifle
6 support, the plurality of positioning recesses receiving corresponding ones of the plurality of
7 positioning projections to properly position the main body of the cover on the area to be covered
8 on the rifle support.

1 34. (Previously presented) The rifle in accordance with claim 31, wherein the
2 one or more corresponding recesses on the rifle support comprise generally cylindrical recesses
3 on the rifle support, and wherein a diameter of the cylindrical recesses changes along the depth
4 of the cylindrical recesses, the diameter of the cylindrical recesses being greater at greater depths
5 in the cylindrical recesses.